



## NEWS RELEASE

# National Park Service

Lowell National Historical Park, 67 Kirk Street, Lowell, MA 01852-1029 [www.nps.gov/lowe](http://www.nps.gov/lowe)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **LOWELL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK** **TO RECEIVE FUNDING FOR** **TROLLEY SYSTEM EXPANSION FEASIBILITY STUDY**

(Lowell, MA) The Lowell National Historical Park funding request to the National Park Service and the U.S. Department of Transportation for a Trolley Expansion Feasibility Study was approved on January 9, 2001. The funding commitment of \$169,000 is a major milestone allowing Lowell to explore the issues and possibilities of this project. It is the culmination of several years of National Park Service and City discussions and planning.

The feasibility study will be conducted by The Volpe Center, a federal transportation think-tank located in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The recommendations from the study will serve as the basis for a construction funding request as part of the next reauthorization of federal transportation legislation in 2003-2004. The study, estimated to begin March 1 and to be completed by the end of 2001, will include:

- Routes, Stations, Frequencies, Fares, Ridership, LRTA Integration
- Land, Capital Needs, Lifecycle Costs, Technical Issues
- Economic Impact, Tourism Impact, Park Visitation, Visitor Experience, Environmental/Traffic Impacts

-more-

## ADD ONE Trolley Feasibility Study Funded

- Operational Models, Operating Costs and Maintenance
- Lessons from other Heritage Trolley Systems in other cities
- Funding Sources

Possible trolley extension routes to be studied include: (1) to the Arena, Lawrence Mills, Stadium and UMASS North Campus; (2) Massachusetts Mills, Lowell Memorial Auditorium, Middlesex Community College, proposed Performing Arts Center; (3) LRTA Gallagher Terminal; (4) Jackson-Appleton-Middlesex Street Urban Renewal Area; (5) Merrimack Street.

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